

Ako Explored

Six principles for learning and teaching – A suite of effective resources for improving learner outcomes



Principle 6

Shared high expectations and challenging tasks are motivations for growth and development.

What are the benefits?

Practices that encourage intellectual challenge, within appropriate goals and with targeted support, help learners confront misconceptions and foster effort, engage more deeply, feel intrinsically motivated to do their best work, develop evaluation and critical thinking skills, and focus on deeper learning.

What might this look like in practice?

- Make the demands and expectations of the learning process and outcomes highly visible and revisit this often to help your ākonga set their own goals and structure their learning.
- Use practices that move your ākonga from a position of spectator to active participation. Challenge them to apply their learning in active ways, even when it is formative.

Questions for consideration

How does your own experience and identity as an educator determine how you view learners and what they are capable of? How does it influence your practice? Are there ways for you to reframe any elements of this?

Where can I find out more?

- View the full document and Ako Explored webpages on the Ako Aotearoa website. <https://ako.ac.nz/ako-explored>
- Read what Dr Russell Bishop and his colleagues have to say about the importance of high expectations for Māori students. Bishop, R., Berryman, M., Cavanagh, T., & Teddy, L. (2007). *Te Kotahitanga Phase 3 Whanaungatanga: Establishing a culturally responsive pedagogy of relations in mainstream secondary school classrooms*. Report to the New Zealand Ministry of Education.
- Watch how 2021 awardee Dr Brendon Dunphy expressly states that he aims to challenge students but does so in a way that supports ākonga and sustains learning in the long term. <https://ako.ac.nz/knowledge-centre/ako-explored/high-expectations-dr-brendon-dunphy>
- Check out this handy infographic about teaching with high expectations set in the schooling context <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/expect-more-get-how-high-expectations-can-elevate-student-dickson>

Please note: The image on the reverse side is titled 'Inter-relationships between the principles', taken from page 15 of the Ako Explored report.



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